

Newsletter No 8: Term 3

January 2021

Dear Parent / Carers,

I hope this newsletter finds you safe and well. In case you missed the plethora of letters and emails that have been sent recently, we wish you a happy new year! Thank you so much for bearing with us over the last week as we have had to adjust to last minute directives from the Government. Many of you have sent encouraging messages regarding the provision for remote learning – thank you it's great to get feedback.

In school we have adjusted our Risk Assessment and have capacity to open 7 bubbles with up to 12 children in a bubble on a daily basis. **The most recent guidance from the DFE has clearly stated that if a child can stay at home then keep them home. This will help by limiting the numbers of families mixing and therefore reduce the likelihood of Covid spread and potential impact on our NHS.**

At Fishponds we have prioritised our most vulnerable children first, then the children with two key worker parent /carers followed by those with just one. We still have a number of Key Worker parent / carers (*with only one parent who is a Key Worker*) who we have been unable to accommodate. We have asked all Key workers to email the school with their working patterns to see if we can free up places for other Key Worker families who need a place. Please let us know your working patterns as soon as possible to help support us providing care to more families.

Remote Learning

All children, whether in school or at home, will be receiving the same diet of live teaching on Zoom and working independently on Seesaw / Tapestry. We believe that this is a more equitable way of ensuring that children receive the same provision. The DFE have stated that children in KS1 should receive approximately 3 hours of remote learning and KS2 children approximately 4 hours.

Here is an outline of the provision your child should be receiving: Children in Y1-6 will have 2 live teaching sessions on Zoom daily. (Timetable and Zoom codes are emailed each week to families) Times listed below:

KS1: 9am and 10.30am

Y3/4 : 9.30am and 11am

Y5/6 : 10am and 11.30am

As well as live teaching in Maths and English the children will then be given independent learning activities to ensure the rest of the curriculum is covered. Learning is posted on your child's Seesaw account. Seesaw is a great App as it allows the teaching staff to provide feedback on your child's work.

EYFS: Daily Maths, Phonics and a Superstar lesson posted on Tapestry daily to be worked through at a time that works for each family. There will also be live Zoom sessions (at least 3 short Zooms per week to consolidate learning covered in the week as well as offering a chance to see friends online.

Families without devices

Zoom and Seesaw are accessible on any device that can access the internet e.g. a tablet, Amazon Fire, mobile phone and laptop/ ipad. We are aware that some families do not have access to a device that will allow their child to access remote learning. The DFE has stated that it is making devices available to schools to loan to their most vulnerable children. We are still waiting for the devices we ordered through the DFE in October and so we need to seek an alternative solution. We are asking for donations of tablets, Amazon Fire tablets, unused devices. We will organise for devices to be wiped and set them up safely so that we can loan out devices to our most vulnerable. The numbers we can support will be based around how many devices we can recycle. If you have any links with companies / businesses it may be worth asking if they can help us out. **Please drop any devices you are happy to donate to the school into our school office.**



Church of England Academy

Principal: Mrs Debbie Coker

Chair of Local Board: Mrs Trish Dodds



Value of the Term : Respect

Week 2: We are all different but special. How can we look after each other in class?

Week 3: What can you do to care for the school environment?

Week 4: What would be your 'Golden Rule' that would make our world a fairer and more loving place?

Week 5: Why is it important to think before you speak?

Week 6: It's easy to show respect to those who think the same as we do. How do we disagree with others respectfully?

Learning to Learn skill for term 3 : Creativity.

Whole school Collective Worship takes place on Zoom @ 9.10am on Tuesdays each week. These sessions focus on our question of the week above and provide an opportunity for the school to come together and think. These sessions are inclusive for children from all faiths. We look forward to seeing your child there! You are welcome to join them and support them in discussing the questions that come up. Zoom links are sent out prior to the sessions.



Free School Meals during Lockdown

During lockdown all children at home and in receipt of the Free School Meals Benefit are entitled to a food hamper. Pictured above are the contents of last week's hamper. If you are entitled to receive these FSM hampers, and your child is not in school, you will receive an email from the school letting you know when the hampers are available to collect. Please let us know if you are isolating and we will organise for one of the team to drop it off.

Dates for your diaries , with best wishes from Debbie Coker (Principal)

Monday 4 th January 21	INSET DAY School closed to children
Tuesday 5 th January 21	School closure
Wednesday 6 th January 21	School closed but open to those registered for Vulnerable and Key Worker provision. All should be accessing remote learning if possible.
Wednesday 13 th January 21	KS1 parent /carers workshop on maths calculations. Find out how we teach calculation and be better prepared to help your child with their maths. 4pm on Zoom. (link to be sent out Tuesday 12th)
Monday 18 th January 21	Y3/4 parent /carers workshop on maths calculations. Find out how we teach calculation and be better prepared to help your child with their maths. 4pm on zoom. (links to follow)
Tuesday 19 th January 21	Y5/6 parent /carers workshop on maths calculations. Find out how we teach calculation and be better prepared to help your child with their maths. 4pm on zoom. (links to follow)
Thursday 28 th January 21	RE Day – As a school we will be celebrating our diversity and thinking about the World Faiths. More info to follow.
Tuesday 9 th February 21	Year 6 parent /carers information evening about the KS2 SATS and how to help your child. (cancelled as SATS are cancelled this year !)
Wednesday 10 th February 21	Year 1 parent /carer Phonics and Reading meeting. 4pm on Zoom.
Thursday 11 th February 21	EYFS Phonics meeting for Reception parent / carers. Come along to find out all about phonics and how we use this to help your child to learn to read and write. 4pm on Zoom.
Friday 12 th February 21	Last day of term 3 School closed for half term (Monday 15 th Feb – Friday 19 th Feb 21)
Half Term	School closed for half term (Monday 15 th Feb – Friday 19 th Feb 21). There will be no remote learning during this time.
Monday 22 nd February 21	Term 4 begins.
Thursday 4 th March 21	World Book Day! Advance warning ... get your book character costumes ready!



Keep up to date with our Friends of Fishponds Academy (PTA) by joining Classlist.

See FOFA newsletter for further information!

Scan the code to get your invitation



This code auto-approves you until: January 18, 2021

- 1 Scan with your device camera*
- 2 Download the app
- 3 Sign up

*Or type this link in your phone's browser: <https://classlist.page.link/ruMBWPQ8pK7w4mj7A>